

live in the enjoyment of numberless mercies, directly springing from the light of revelation, and know that there are countless multitudes enduring no little misery from the want of it. Who hath had compassion upon us? who hath made us to differ? Surely to little purpose have we read that Holy Volume, if we have not acquired bowels of compassion for our fellow-creatures, who are our fellow-sinners, and for whom the remedy of the Gospel is as necessary as for ourselves.—And, last of all, are there no lessons of gratitude? Mercies surround us on every side. We may take up the words of the Psalmist, and say, “He sheweth his word unto” us as he did unto “Jacob, and his statutes” as “unto Israel—he hath not dealt so with any nation.” And should we not ask, “What shall we render unto the Lord for all his benefits that he hath done unto us?” And should we not hear his voice bidding us, that as we have freely received we should freely give—that as we have obtained mercy we should not faint, but abound in labours for the advancement of his kingdom among the children of men?

So greatly are the circumstances changed, under which British Christians have been called upon to prepare and circulate the Sacred Volume! Changes may occur again; the bright scene may be reversed; the witnesses may have again to “prophesy in sackcloth.” But, let it be borne in mind, the word itself, like its Divine Author, *changeth not*. Systems of human invention give place, one to another, as their several errors are detected, but *here*—and the consideration is solemn, important, and consolatory—here is truth; truth that abideth for ever, the same as it was penned, from the first page of the Pentateuch to the closing book of Revelation. The exhibition of the Divine Being, and of the Great Mystery of godliness, God manifest in the flesh—of the Teacher and Comforter, even the Holy Ghost—of Man, his guilt and misery, and his hopes of redemption; the requirements—the consolations—the promises—all are the same now as ever, and produce, when applied to the understanding and the heart, the same effects. That truth, delivered by prophets and evangelists—that truth, which sustained the glorious company of the apostles, the goodly fellowship of the prophets, the noble army of martyrs, and the Holy Church throughout all the world, in former ages, has come down to us. Be it ours to purify our hearts in obeying that truth through the Spirit, and out of a pure heart to love one another fervently. Be it ours to show that we are “living epistles” of Christ; to prove to the world that the Spirit of the Lord is not straitened, but that his word is good, and doeth good to

them that walk uprightly. To that word let us cleave, and esteem it as of more price than thousands of gold and of silver, till, through infinite and boundless mercy, we join that multitude, whom no man can number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues; who, having found in the Scriptures Him of whom Moses and the prophets did write, having been sanctified by the truth, and guided by its counsels, and comforted by its promises, now “stand before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands, and cry with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and to the Lamb!”

PROGRESS OF THE BIBLE CAUSE.

WEST INDIES: CUBA.

Rev. J. Thomson thus writes:

“HAVANA, June 8, 1837.

“I now write you from the Island of Cuba, a place I have looked to, for a long time, with wishes, hopes, and fears—the first and the last of these feelings prevailing, I confess, over that expressed between them. But your business and mine is, to offer and obtrude the Holy Scriptures every where, and to all men of all continents and nations, and to the distant isles of the sea. This is the last island in the West Indies, in regard to its position, and in regard to the visitation of your Society; and it is the last in several other respects, which I shall not here mention. But though last, it is not the least, for it is in size the greatest of all the West India Islands; and it is greatest, too, in regard to the need of your help. This is the twentieth island in the West Indies visited by your Agent during his tour through this Archipelago; exclusive of Demerara, which is not an island; and exclusive of Venezuela, both of which parts are on the main and great continent of South America; the places, therefore, if not the islands, are in number twenty-two, and belonging to different nations. In all the twenty-two the Scriptures have had an entrance; and into all, that entrance was frank and full to a considerable extent, except Porto Rico. But there, too, the word of God entered; though it was, if I might so speak, taken up the wall in a basket, yet without any infringement of law.

“When I had got the books fairly entered into this city, and within my own power, I made inquiry among the booksellers about their sale. The whole quantity which I brought was two cases, a larger and a smaller, which was very nearly all I had in Jamaica. The number of large Bibles brought: